CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 28 | TORONTO, JULY 8th, 1942 | $2.00 Per Annum

Ottawa Okays Board's Moves

Wartime Rulings Supersede Existing Law, Orders State

With the issuance of Orders in Council 8528 and 5109 Ottawa has confirmed the opinions and practices of the Theatre and Film section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, under R. C. McMullen, in the matter of conflict between the Board's regulations and existing law. The Orders in Council make it clear that the Board's rulings supersede any law in force in any part of Canada.

An addition to the sub-sections of Section 2 of the previous regu-

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Farewell Dinner To Del Goodman

Over 100 Canadian film men got together to bid a fond farewell to Del Goodman, the popular former Canadian chief of Paramount, who has been ordered back to New York, at a dinner in Toronto's King Edward Hotel last week. The occasion, arranged in honor of the globe-trotting Paramount

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They Overlooked Just One Thing

At the farewell banquet for Del Goodman, former Canadian chief of Paramount, he was presented with a beautiful gift—a cigarette box.

The case, made of silver, had inscribed on it the names of the managers of Paramount's seven Canadian branch offices. It drew the unqualified admiration of the observers as a fine piece of jewelery craft.

But one fact was overlooked—little but big. As Tom Dowbiggen pointed out, Del Goodman doesn't smoke!

P.S. Mrs. Goodman grabbed it. But they both did all right. Del also got a travelling bag.

Play the War, Says Bernstein

Speaking before a gathering of the Association of Motion Picture Advertisers in New York last week, Sydney L. Bernstein, who came to the USA recently for the British Ministry of Information, impressed the need for Hollywood to increase its war-consciousness

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Wanger Gives $10,000 To RAF Benefit Fund

Walter Wanger, producer of "Eagle Squadron," Universal's big film shot, turned over a $10,000 cheque to the RAF Benevolent Association of the USA at the opening of the picture, which took place at New York's Globe Theatre on July 2nd. The cheque was presented by Col. Melvin E. Gillette and was accepted by Flying Officer John Hill of the Eagle Squadron and Chairman Thomas Beck.

Farrow Back Here

Director John Farrow, who recently finished a stretch in the Canadian navy, will be in Ottawa again shortly. This time it's to make arrangements for a location trip to British Columbia for some work on Columbia's "The Commandos," which he is directing.

Loew's Shareholders Turn Down Offer

By a vote of 30,981 to 28,810 shares of Loew's London Theatres Ltd. a special general meeting of shareholders in Toronto turned down a resolution asking that Midland Securities be given the exclusive agency for six months for selling Loew's assets.

Boniface Appleby

Lou Appleby of the Casino has acquired the New Statler Hotel, Toronto, in partnership. It's across the way and down the street a bit from the theatre and is becoming a popular theatrical rendezvous since Lou stepped in.

We Ain't Scared

It is reported that American film trade publishers have had five secret meetings in New York to discuss the projected quarterly publication by the Allied States Association of Exhibitors.

Ned Depinet Heads RKO

Ned E. Depinet has been elected president of RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., succeeding George J. Schaefer who resigned on June 17, it was announced by Richard C. Patterson Jr., chairman of the board of Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, after an executive board meeting held at the corporation's offices at New York. Mr. Depinet, whose previous position of vice-

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Ace's Smart Stunt

Ace Theatre, Queen street, Toronto, supervised by Murray Sasloff, booked Paul Robeson's "Proud Valley" to coincide with his personel appearance before 10,000 people at a local auditorium.

Canadian Wins Award

Robert J. Martin, Associated Screen News cameraman, who was presented with an achievement award by the National Headliners' Club at its ninth annual meeting at Atlantic City, N.J. Martin's coup was the filming of Admiral Musilier's swift occupation of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon for the Free French.

TAX ON SWEETS HITS VENDING MACHINES

The new tax on sweets, raising the price from five to six cents, may paralyze vending machines in theatres when the slots are empty, since the machines are geared for nickels.

Film Weekly
Vol. 8, No. 28 July 8th, 1942
HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 5th Floor, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4310. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year.

Canadian Production

The trickle of publicity about Canada's National Film Board has turned into a flood. For the longest while news about the activities of the Board and its pictures was hard to get. Now you can't pick up a Canadian or American magazine or newspaper without a sequence or story.

Much of the credit for this long-needed information is due to Dave Coplan, the industry's dollar-a-year man, who has been prominent in arranging the distribution of NFB shorts throughout Canada and the United States, as well as other parts of the world. The NFB recently established a publicity department under Irene Baird, and this is functioning smoothly. The only thing lacking today to make a complete picture are press books, through which the exhibitor can be told how to sell NFB shorts, which certainly have all the elements of first-class showmanship.

A thing to remember about the NFB is that it is the basis of future film production in the Dominion. It is 25 years since Canadian production was tried and there never was an organization of the quality of the present setup. It would be a shame to see it fall apart after the war and it isn't likely that it will. Shorts of every kind are taking on importance in film production and smart film men are watching the NFB. Few deny that Canada, from a standpoint of population and development, is the country of the future. The film accompanies progress everywhere and this will be especially true in Canada.

The Toronto Daily Star made an observation winning recognition everywhere when it wrote:

"Canadians probably know little of the extraordinary value and significance of the National Film Board's work. Under the direction of John Grierson, internationally renowned as the pioneer in the field of documentary films, films are being produced in Ottawa which not only are helping Canadians to learn about their own country, about each other, about the war and about the place of Canada in the war, but they also serve to publicize Canada to the world at large."

* * *

Radio Too

We've been hearing so much about the movie war effort and free film entertainment for the boys in uniform that it's no more than fair to report that radio in Canada is also providing considerable entertainment. Though there is no organized radio entertainment effort, individuals manage to bring their shows before the boys in one way or another.

The best current example is Harry (Red) Foster's show, "Lowney's Caravan," a mobile theatre of 30 players, which started out in May to tour our army camps from coast to coast and won't wind up until October. Joe Carr, who played a bit part in "Captains of the Clouds," is the master of ceremonies.

That Foster fellow, of course, is the inseparable companion of the movie mighties that check into the Toronto scene and curtsey before the public at the city hall. Red provides the verbal background for all who share the doings, as well bringing them on and talking them off.

The boys and girls of Canadian radio, whose appearance requires more than the shipment of a print, yield to none in their willingness to help the war effort.

Ottawa Confirms Board Practices

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lations reads as follows:

"(4) In the event of any conflict between these regulations or any order and any law in force in any part of Canada, the provisions of these regulations or of such order shall prevail."

Of some significance was the amendment to the old order, which dealt with eleven services coming under the Board's jurisdiction. In that order motion picture matters were brought in with "the exhibiting of moving pictures." In the new order the services have been expanded to thirteen and the motion picture part reads "the renting and exhibiting of moving pictures."

It is now considered that the Board's orders have been properly fixed, being issued and approved by Ottawa, and would be incontestable in court. There are about twenty amendments to the old Order in Council in the new ones.

Another question expected to be made clearer shortly by official confirmation is whether or not the exhibitor may relinquish his deal with a particular company at the end of the contract. Some time ago the Advisory Council and Mr. Stewart were of the same opinion —that the "exhibitor is under the same compulsion to buy basic product as the distributor is to sell." This has been in practice.

Because no Order in Council has as yet carried that principle, exhibitors in various parts have been wondering if they can relinquish their contracts and change companies. Film salesmen have been unable to clear up the point for them.

Paramount Officers Are Reelected

With the exception of Leonard H. Goldenson, chief of Paramount's theatre department, who was made a vice-president, all officers of the company were unanimously elected at a special meeting of the Board of Directors in New York.

Officers are: President, Barney Balaban; Chairman of the Board, Adolph Zukor; Chairman of Executive Committee, Stanton Griffis; Vice-Presidents, Y. Frank Freeman, Austin C. Keough, Neil F. Agnew, John W. Hicks, Jr., Henry Ginsberg and Leonard H. Goldenson; Treasurer, Walter B. Cokell; Secretary, Austin C. Keough; Comptroller, Fred Mohrhardt; Assistant Secretaries, Norman Collyer, Jacob H. Karp, Frank Meyer.

Farewell Dinner To Del Goodman

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executive, was given by Famous Players but present were industry members of every connection.

Del expressed publicly what he has said in private quite often—that he liked it here and has had many a pang of regret at the thought of leaving. "You don't know how sorry I am to go," he said. The feeling is the same on the part of the natives, who know that Del brought a lot of good fellowship with him when he came here.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players, acted as toastmaster and introduced a number of speakers, several of whom made presentations to Goodman. Paramount branch managers gave the guest of honor a lovely silver cigarette box with their names engraved on it and Famous Players marked his departure with a travelling bag and toilet articles.

Gordon Lightstone, who left Regal to succeed Goodman at Paramount, excused himself when called on for departing from the main business of the moment and directed his remarks at Henry Nathanson, for so many years his chief. He thanked Nathanson publicly for his friendship and guidance during their years together at Regal. He then offered his personal best wishes to his predecessor.

Tom Dowbigger of Paramount, Montreal, made some highly humorous remarks in the course of his speech and Leo Devanney, Norman Robertson and Arthur Gottleib also felicitated Goodman in behalf of the others present. Among those who shared the tribute to Del were R. E. Bolstad, Ben Geldsaler, Haskell Masters, Sam Glazier, Jim O'Loghlin, Morris Stein, Jim Nairn, Jim Hunter, Bob Eaves, Sam Fine and Nat Taylor.

Mr. Fitzgibbons made the presentation for Famous Players and Tom Dowbiggen did the honors for Del's home crowd.

The dinner was a deserving gesture to a fine fellow and an example of the goodwill which exists in the industry.

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NEWS of HOLLYWOOD and Paramount Pictures

Vol. 1 The Lowdown on the Production and Distribution of the Best Shows in Town! No. 1

Jammed Session at 'Hatter's Castle'

Crowds Clog North American Premiere at Toronto House

The Eglinton Theatre, showplace of Toronto, no stranger to crowds, is currently housing larger ones than ever. The reason is Paramount's great English drama, "Hatter's Castle," which made its North American debut at this Famous Players cinema palace and continues to draw patrons from every part of the Queen City.

The film is duplicating its success in London, where it broke the boxoffice records of "North West Mounted Police," a great moneymaker. Not even Producer David Rose expected that "Hatter's Castle", which is from that A. J. Cronin best seller of the same name, would turn into the record-breaker that it is but so well cast and acted is the picture that there could be no other result.

"Hatter's Castle" is the story of a father who rules his household with a rod of iron—rules them to such ends that eventually he drives them all from him, not repenting until it is too late. All through the story, it is the Castle as well as the father that seems to throw its spell over the others in the plot.

Many film companies have tried "Hatter's Castle" but it remained for Paramount to bring it to the screen. Under the able direction of David Rose, Robert Newton, Deborah Kerr, Emlyn Williams and Enid Stamp-Taylor turned in outstanding performances and brought raves from the columns of the critics. Robert Newton was borrowed from the Navy for his part as Brodie, the father. Newton was lately seen in "Major Barbara," as was Deborah Kerr.

Robert Newton, with his role as Brodie, caps off a long line of important parts in pictures like "Dark Journey," "Fire Over England," "Farewell Again," "The Squeaker," "Vessel of Wrath" and "The Beachcomber."

"Hatter's Castle" will long be remembered as an outstanding picture for the plot, the sincerity of the actors in their roles and the direction and photography. It proves that even in the most trying circumstances, England can deliver the goods.

As You Show, So Shall You 'Reap' . . .

. . . the best boxoffice in town! Here's Paulette Goddard and Lynne Overman giving a pirate a going-over in the C. B. DeMille Technicolor spectacle "Reap the Wild Wind". This picture, doing boom business wherever it has been shown, has been called the tinted titan of film history. Look at that line-up of stars—Ray Milland, John Payne, Paulette Goddard, Susan Hayward, Robert Preston, Lynne Overman, Raymond Massey, Charles Bickford, Hedda Hopper, John Wayne and Walter Hampden.

It's the Same All Over the Country—Crowds & Crowds

Now in its fourth terrific week at the Sheas Theatre in Toronto, Cecil B. De Mille's Technicolor spectacle, "Reap the Wild Wind" continues to "keep 'em standing". The saga of the Florida Keys screens to capacity houses every performance and there is every indication that a new record of attendance may be set up. In all pre-release settings throughout the Dominion, "Reap" has established itself as one of filmdom's outstanding pictures.

The first week's gross at Denham, Denver, topped all house records for twelve-year history of the theatre by twenty-five per cent. Miller Theatre, Wichita, had a three day gross for "Reap" amounting to 212 per cent of the "North West Mounted Police" take. "Reap" also cracked house records at the Newman, K.C., the Paramount, Nashville, and in Salt Lake City.

With "Reap" in its fourth, fifth and six weeks in a bunch of dates and all grosses topping "North West Mounted Police" by a wide margin, only broken house records remain news, and we will not bother you with any smaller figures.

Pick Mex Star

Arturo De Cordova, one of Mexico's most celebrated male stars, is the latest member of the cast of "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Star's Lucky Star Is Albert Dekker

Paramount are ready to release "Night in New Orleans" featuring Preston Foster, Patricia Morison, Albert Dekker, Charles Butterworth and Jean Phillips. Miss Phillips, blonde ex-stand-in for Jean Harlow, got her first real movie break in another Paramount picture in which Albert Dekker was starred—"Among the Living." Jean again plays with Dekker in "Night in New Orleans" but this time she has a much more important part.

He's Got a Gun!

Preston Foster and Patricia Morison are on the spot in "Night in New Orleans", a melange of murder, mystery and mirth.

Ned Depinet Heads RKO

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president in charge of distribution for RKO Radio Pictures has not yet been filled, also was elected vice-president of the RKO Corporation, of which RKO Pictures is the producing and distributing subsidiary.

Simultaneously, N. Peter Rathvon, formerly vice-president of the Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, was elected to the presidency. Charles W. Koerner was named vice-president of RKO Radio Pictures, in charge of its studio. All other officers of the RKO Corporation, headed by Mr. Patterson, were re-elected for the coming year.

Ned Depinet has been in the motion picture industry for thirty-five years. After serving for varying periods as a sales executive for Universal, First National and Warner Brothers, he became vice-president of RKO Pathe in 1931. On the subsequent formation of RKO Radio Pictures he became vice-president, and after the reorganization of Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation he was elected to the vice-presidency of that company. Mr. Rathvon was formerly associated with Floyd B. Odlum in the Atlas Corporation.

Fox Far East Men Prisoners of Japs

Twentieth Century-Fox has been informed that the International Red Cross has established contact with Arthur Doyle, Far Eastern representative of the foreign department, and D. B. Lederman, Philippine manager. Both men are reported to be prisoners held somewhere on the Bataan Peninsula. Doyle was on his way back to the New York office when the Japanese captured Manila. No word has been received by the foreign department of Twentieth Century-Fox regarding the whereabouts of Joseph McElhinney, last reported in Batavia, Dutch East Indies.

Japs Release Warners' Men

Two Warner Bros. foreign representatives will be among the group of 629 American nationals who will be released by the Japanese for return to the USA aboard the Gripsholm within the next 60 days, according to word from the State Department. They are Harold Dunn, Far Eastern Supervisor, with headquarters in Shanghai, and Michael Shathin, manager for Japan, located in Tokio.

Snootfuls

Paramount's Thelma Golden, who sizzles a softball at a batter with authority and guile, done us proud at Detroit the other week-end. Thelma threw a no-hit game at the classy Erin Brew gal's team, winning the game two to nothing, and missing a perfect game when one of her colleagues made a wild throw, allowing an opposition player to land on base. She struck out 11 batters. Her team, Sunday Morning Class, cleaned up the opposition during the stay . . . Sam Glasier, Fox adsales chief, is a happy feller these days. Sam has always hankered to handle a publicity and exploitation campaign and met every praiser sent here with warmth in his heart but envy in his eye. Fox, having no full-time man here for the job, entertained a regular parade of Yank publicists. They let Sam take a whack at "My Gal Sal" and such was the quality of his whoop-de-do that "Dynamo," the Fox publication from New York, gave his work a long story, picture and all.

* * *

The Other Roosevelt

The USA has its Franklin D. Roosevelt—and so has Canada. The Canadian Roosevelt, who imitates the American one, Captain Jack Young, is not unknown On the Square, since he hails from Toronto.

In Warners crack film about the life of George M. Cohan, which stars Jimmy Cagney, there is a scene of Cohan being presented with a Congressional Medal of Honor by President Roosevelt. Young plays Roosevelt—and steals the only scene I ever saw Cagney lose.

So perfect is Young's imitation of Roosevelt that it's almost like a newsreel shot of FDR. It has startled every audience which has seen the film.

Jack Young worked for the Canadian secret service for 20 years. In '34 he went to Florida and became a merchant captain. He was just about broke and was coming back to Toronto by bus. The bus stopped at Washington and for a breather Young went over behind the Senate building, where a ball game was in progress. His presence caused such a commotion that he gave his resemblance some serious thought.

Back in Toronto he got all kinds of offers to exploit nature's whim but he figured if it's worth money here, it's worth money in Hollywood. And he was right. He played judges, etc., but didn't get a crack at a Roosevelt impersonation until now.

President Roosevelt got about his biggest laugh from Captain Jack. Young had the presidential voice down pat also. When the president visited Los Angeles Jack was on hand. He walked up to FDR and gave with the perfect Roosevelt voice and manner: "My friend, how are you?"

The president roared with laughter.

* * *

Snooperman

The Canadian Film Weekly has taken several ocean jaunts of late to undisclosed destinations. It has been following Seaman Frank Polakoff around and catching up with him every time he hits an "Eastern Canadian Port." There, he says, several sailor boys from Dundas Square, among them Lefty Sinclair of Empire-Universal and Roy Lerner of Producers Releasing Corporation, gather around and devour news of the old neighborhood . . . I saw Irving Cohen, ex-Grand Nationalite, recently and he looked fitter than ever before in his Irish uniform. Irving and Roy both joined the Navy at the same time but the sea bosses thumbed Irving out as too old. So he joined the Irish—and shortly after the Navy decided he was okay after all. But Irving stayed on land . . . Something to remember: Allen Jones, the actor, says "The only cold I get are caused by air conditioning" . . . Washroom windows and exit doors should be checked regularly. There's been a great deal of sneaking in of late.

Play the War, Says Bernstein

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via films and explained what England was doing about it.

In England a one-reeler is sent free to the theatres each week which explains some branch of the service or the efforts of the Allies. Mobile units take these films to places with no theatres.

"These mobile units also show pictures to factory workers and to farm workers doing war work far away from the cities," he said.

"It is exciting to go into a factory on a night shift at three in the morning and see the people going from their benches into the canteen for lunch, and having movies with their coffee. We realize that the little man who works on a little washer for a tank gets a kick out of seeing that tank in action. Factory managers tell us that the morale of the factory goes up with a bang after these pictures are shown."

Special newsreels, dubbed in foreign languages, are sent all around the world.

"We've taken a new line, too, in addition to the more direct processes," said Bernstein. "We're attempting to crowd Nazi films off the screens of the few remaining neutral territories by distributing nonpropaganda films from the studios of both Britain and Hollywood. A free bomber ride for all U.S. films with the compliments of the British Government."

The British Government has also been concerned with commercial films.

"We have used all our influence to keep the producers making films with residue value. This is what the movie-goer carries home with him, for we feel that the intelligent citizen is entitled to something over and above the pure entertainment.

"Our audiences know about the war—it is their war, and they're participants in it. They know what is true and what is not true, and we find they're losing interest in the old, old story that was served up time and again to peacetime audiences. They want realism in their war pictures. As Miss Lejeune, one of our most eminent critics, said: 'For safety's sake, let us keep the blondes out of the bomb racks.'

"But don't think we want only war films. On the contrary, we need escape pictures. We need them badly.

"In wartime, people should have the best, not the worst, of the arts."

Digest of Reviews

Columbia

THEY ALL KISSED THE BRIDE

Payoff: This has a high standard of laugh entertainment. Joan Crawford is by no means falling from public esteem if her laugh-getting here is any measurement. Melvyn Douglas' blase personality and his droll delivery are at their best here. This will be close to the leaders in the coming season's crack comedies.

What Goes On: Crawford is a frigid business tycoon who is irked by expose-writer Douglas. He has been criticizing her treatment of employees. Douglas thaws her out, after many complications, and wins a new deal for the boys.

Sizeup: Some outstanding support from Billie Burke, Roland Young, Allen Jenkins and Helen Parrish.

Regal Shorts

FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE ("Crime Does Not Pay series)

The same high standard. This one concerns Nazi and Jap intrigue in Chili and how it was overcome in a very interesting instance.

THE INCREDIBLE STRANGER
(John Nesbitt's "The Passing Parade")

The story of the private tragedy of one man and how he sought compensation for it. It has mystery and pathos. The incredible stranger moves into a small town and his secrecy breeds resentment, which turns to sympathy when the truth comes out. It is a fine, human bit of drama.

PUSS N' TOOTS

A color cartoon of an unusually high quality from a standpoint of art and laughter. It deals with antics of a love-mad pussy.

ASN Lensman Wins USA Award

Robert J. "Bob" Martin, of Associated Screen News Limited, Montreal, was the only Canadian newsreel cameraman to win an award at the National Headliners' Club at its ninth annual meeting held at Atlantic City. Martin received a silver medallion Saturday evening, June 27, for his newsreel coverage on exclusive assignment from Paramount News, of Admiral Musilier's coup in taking over the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the name of the Free French.

He went to the remote islands between Christmas and New Year, 1941, to film the story. Later Martin related that the most hazardous part of the assignment was the return trip on the huge Free French submarine, "Surcouf," which disappeared with all hands two voyages later. During his return trip to Canada on board the submarine, its surface voyage was made extremely hazardous by a heavy coating of ice, graphically shown in Martin's pictures.

On leaving school 15 years ago Bob Martin joined Associated Screen News Limited and has been covering newsreel and other motion picture assignments for the past ten years. In 1939 he was loaned to Ortus Films for camera work on production of the English feature picture "49th Parallel" which was largely filmed in Canada.

Martin's award coming to Canada is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that Canadian film footage is very much smaller than that contributed to the newsreels by American cameramen.

Revivals in Manhattan

Alexander Nevsky—1939 Russian film with Eng. subtitles. Cherkassov, Orlov.

Arise My Love—1940 farce comedy; C. Colbert, R. Milland,

Crime and Punishment—1936 psychological melodrama; Peter Lorre.

Daybreak—1940 French drama, Eng. subtitles; J. Gabin, J. Laurent.

Four Sons—1940 tragedy; D. Ameche, A. Curtis, E. Leontovich.

High, Wide and Handsome—1937 musical; I. Dunne & R. Scott.

Human Beast—1940. Zola's great tragic novel; French with English subtitles. J. Gabin, S. Simon.

Joy of Living—1938 comedy; I. Dunne & D. Fairbanks, Jr.

Kitty Foyle—1940 drama; G. Rogers, D. Morgan, J. Craig.

Life of Emile Zola—1937 dramatization of the life of the novelist; Muni & Sondergaard.

Lives of a Bengal Lancer—1935. Adventure in India. G. Cooper & F. Tone.

Love Me Forever—1935 operatic film; G. Moore & L. Carrillo.

Man of Conquest—1939 epic drama; R. Dix, G. Patrick.

Metropolitan—1935 operatic film; L. Tibbett.

My Love Came Back—1940 musical comedy romance; O. de Havilland.

Our Town—1940 drama from Wilder's play; F. Craven, M. Scott.

Port of Shadows—1939 French drama; Eng. subtitles; J. Gabin, M. Simon. M. Morgan.

Primrose Path—1940 drama; G. Rogers, J. McCrea.

Roaring Twenties—1940 melodrama of prohibition era; J. Cagney & P. Lane.

Road to Glory—1936 war melodrama; F. March & W. Baxter.

Stowaway—1937 musical; Shirley Temple & R. Young.

Three-Cornered Moon—1938 comedy; C. Colbert.

Under Two Flags—1936 Foreign Legion drama; C. Colbert R. Colman.

Virginia City—1940 western melodrama; E. Flynn, R. Scott, M. Hopkins.

New Cagney Unit Goes Into Action

Cagney Productions, Inc., will get its cameras rolling as soon as possible so that the first of six pictures, all budgeted for at least $6,000,000, can be released through UA by October. William Cagney, one half of the Cagney brother team, returned from New York, bringing with him a dozen story properties.

British News & Shorts For Russian Showings

Sixty-four newsreels and 20 short subjects have been sent to the Soviet Union from Great Britain during the past two months, and another production program of 24 specially prepared films is now in progress. These are being made entirely in Russian and with Russian commentaries.

A numoer effort films pertaining to the war effort have been among those recently sent to the Soviet Union from Britain. One showed how production is maintained in Britain's aircraft and munitions factories; another dealt with the training of British troops; and a third illustrated methods of convoying ships. Twenty British shorts relating to war subjects were recently combined by Soviet producers and presented as two long newsreels.

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Warners to Film Davies' Book

Robert Buckner will be the producer on "Mission to Moscow," to be filmed by Warner Bros. from the best-seller and private papers of former U. S. Ambassador to Russia Joseph E. Davies. Buckner returned to the coast over the week-end following conclusion of arrangements between Ambassador Davies and H. M. Warner for the screen rights to the timely material.

* * *

Robert Cummings will play the male lead in "Princess O'Rourke," the picture that will mark the debut on the Warner Bros. lot of Norman Krasna as writer and director. This will be the second time within a year that Warners has borrowed Cummings from Universal, the previous occasion having been for "Kings Row."

Also announced for the cast of "Princess O'Rourke" is Charles Coburn. It will be his fifth picture in succession at Warners, the others having been "Kings Row," "In This Our Life," "The Constant Nymph" and "George Washington Slept Here."

* * *

Capt. Hewitt T. Wheless, Flying Fortress pilot whose heroism was lauded by President Roosevelt in a nation-wide radio address, will portray himself in an Army Air Force film, "Beyond the Line of Duty." It will be directed by Lew Seiler.

The production will be filmel at Randolph Field, Texas, and will depict the fliers' military life from the time he received his training at that field through the exploit which won him the President's commendation.

'Flying Fortress' Big in London

For the first time in their history, the Warner Theatre and the Empire, MGM's show house, not only shared the world premiere of a picture, but are presenting a simultaneous run of "The Flying Fortress," produced by Warner Bros. on this side. The deal, arranged by Max Wilder of Warners and Sam Eckman of MGM has had the trade buzzing for the past week, following the dual opening.

The Warner and Empire stand almost side by side on Leicester Square and have always been the two keenest competitors in the West End. "Flying Fortress," coming along right on top of the 1,000-bomber raids over Cologne and Essen, was considered too hot a picture for the Warner capacity alone, and the Empire was quick to suspend its regular policy in order to take advantage of the occasion.

Contributions to this column will be greatly appreciated from any member of the motion picture industry, from coast to coast, whether he has chain affiliations or is strictly independent.

Address all letters to "What Did You Do?" c/o Film Weekly 21 Dundas Sq., Toronto, Ont.

THIS is how Harland Rankin of the Centre, Chatham, celebrated the first anniversary of the theatre's opening:

A local taxi company donated 15 free rides on the Anniversary Week to holders of lucky numbers on programs. A special welcome sign from the management was shown after each feature and special stage lighting effects were arranged for special appeal. Local bands were promoted for the opening of the feature each evening. The bands consisted of the Sea Scouts Bugle Band, Chatham Kiltie Band, Second Kent Bugle Band, Military Band and Pipe Band, Boys' Band. These paraded through the main street. The manager, Harland Rankin, and the assistant manager, Tom Early, welcoming the patrons in formal attire, wearing white coats, tuxedo trousers and patent leather shoes. On Wednesday night, which is the regular stage night for the theatre, a local Hit & Run novelty show was produced which brought the house down. The cast consisting of local High School talent. A presentation was made to the management by the Mayor of Chatham, presenting the key of the city to Mr. Rankin and flowers to Miss Chatham and Miss Carron.

A Centre Theatre Birthday Cake was sponsored each night by members of the Red Cross, who sold pieces at 10c. clearing in the neighborhood of $60.00. Each cake contained 6 passes to the Centre Theatre. The cakes were beautifully iced, carrying a candle for the 1st Anniversary.

After the stage show Mayor Hubbell posed for many pictures in a frivolous mood dancing with Miss Chatham and also holding the girls on his knee. These pictures are to be sold at a premium with the monies to be turned over to the Red Cross. Our local radio station which broadcast the Mayor's speech also made daily comments of the Centre Theatre Anniversary during their news broadcast.

Special window cards were placed in the leading store windows and the Anniversary can be called quite successful.

LES VICARY of the Opera House, Orillia, held a mock election parade. Kiddies carried banners reading "Henry Aldrich for President." It sure must have been an all-out event, as Les is calling an encore for his enthusiastic patrons.

* * *

"TIE a little string around your finger," says Ralph Tiede, of the Century, Trenton. As each patron entered the theatre, an attendant handed him a small length of colored string. No explanation was given at the time, but just before the breaking of the show, Ralph asked his audience via the screen, "Are you forgetful? If so, use the colored string you received on entering, tie it around your finger so that you won't forget to see (feature)."

* * *

LEO COYLE of the Granada, St. Catharines, tells us that for "Blossoms in the Dust" he used small cards in every Beauty Shop in town and had better results than from any other form of advertising.

* * *

FOR "Two Yanks in Trinidad" a very timely firecracker motif was used throughout the campaign by Bob Brown, Vanity, Windsor. Newspaper ads carried exploding firecrackers with copy: "Hot as a firecracker—Explosive Action — Romantic Dynamite." Heralds were delivered in firecracker form. Three separate street ballys, with small boys carrying huge firecrackers, had "Two Yanks in Trinidad" fastened to the fuses and additional copy on their backs. These ballys paraded around the city in different directions. Two standee cutouts used in front, flags around the theatre, and Army Week decorations tying in with the picture helped to round out a very attractive campaign.

* * *

BOB BEREZIN, Elgin, Ottawa, finds that by constantly plugging the cool atmosphere in his theatre he has boosted business considerably. For a triple laugh week, Bob featured the idea of a "Surprise Laugh Show" using three V's for "Very Very Very Funny."

RKO Magazine For Service Lads

RKO Radioites now in the nation's armed services are going to keep in touch with each other and with their former office associates through a new company house organ which made its debut last week.

Called The Salute, the publication, which is a supplement to Flash, the regular house organ, is in two colors, size 5" x 7", printed on magazine stock. Circulation is confined strictly within the RKO Radio Home Office, Studio, and branch offices, and to ex-RKO Radioites currently in the fighting forces. Jack Level is the editor. Magazine will have no regular publication date but will be issued as often as availability of material makes it practicable.

* * *

Walter Reed, young, dark and handsome leading man discovered a few months ago, has been assigned an important role with Pat O'Brien, Randolph Scott and Anne Shirley in "Bombardier."

Reed was picked from a group of unknown stock players recently for his first break in the not yet released "Army Surgeon." This led to the romantic lead opposite Lupe Velez in the just completed "Mexican Spitfire's Elephant."

A look at Reed in that film convinced Producer Robert Fellows and Director Richard Wallace that he was the logical candidate for the role of the young army flier in "Bombardier," which starts next month at RKO Radio studios.

Disney Film to Show Air Victory

Walt Disney, whose "Bambi" will soon be released by RKO Radio, has acquired the screen rights to Major Alexander P. de Seversky's "Victory Through Air Power," and will make it into a feature picture for exhibition sometime this fall.

Every available artist in the studio not engaged on government pictures is already occupied with "Victory Through Air Power," a premium volume of the Book of the Month Club.

Disney, while not yet divulging his plans for treating this timely book, states that it will be dramatically entertaining at the same time that it faithfully illustrates de Seversky's theory that the United States can and will master the Axis with an overwhelming air force.

Long range bombers from American bases can wipe out Japan, de Seversky states, and in his screen treatment Disney will show how it will be done.

Fox Execs Meet In Cinema City

Twelve productions now being edited or re-recorded at the Twentieth Century-Fox Beverly Hills studio will be ready for screening when President Spyros P. Skouras, Vice-president Tom J. Connors, in charge of world-wide sales, and Advertising and Publicity Director Hal Horne reach the coast. The home office executives will be joined in Chicago by Tony Muto, Fox-Movietone Washington representative, who also will visit the studio.

In addition to the pictures now completed, four features will be shooting and at least five productions will start during the time the Twentieth Century-Fox executives are holding their studio conferences with Darryl F. Zanuck and other production heads. This is the first season that the studio has been so far ahead on product.

After screening the completed pictures, Tom J. Connors will announce the first releases that are to start off the 1942-43 selling season. Important production plans will be announced at the same time and also plans for either regional sales meetings or home office conferences with district and branch managers on the new product.

The twelve completed productions are: "The Black Swan," "Orchestra Wives," "Footlight Serenade," "Thunder Birds," "The Pied Piper," "The Loves of Edgar Allan Poe," "A-Haunting We Will Go," "Twelve Men in a Box," "Little Tokyo, U.S.A.," "Careful Soft Shoulders," "Berlin Correspondent" and "Tales of Manhattan."

The following four features are before the cameras: "Iceland," "Girl Trouble," "China Girl" and "Man in the Trunk," and five out of the seven following features ready for shooting are expected to start within the next two weeks: "Manila Calling," "Springtime in the Rockies," "Ten Dollar Raise," "That Other Woman," "Ox-Bow Incident," "Buried Alive" and "Meanest Man in the World."

Laudy Lawrence, Twentieth Century-Fox foreign distribution chief, has appointed Maurice Silverstein as special home office representative for Cuba, Central America and several South American countries.

The new Latin American representative will make his first trip through his territory in August and will visit branches in Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and two or three Central American capitals. Mr. Silverstein was with the Metro foreign department for sixteen years and has been Far Eastern manager with headquarters in Singapore.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

TORONTO DAILY STAR

(Some thoughts worth remembering are printed on the editorial page of this paper. They are about the National Film Board.

Every third Thursday in the month, the National Film Board releases one of the "Canada Carries On" documentary shorts. It is shown every month in 900 motion picture theatres throughout the Dominion and also in commercial theatres in the United States, Latin America, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand. The distribution of the "Canada Carries On" series in the United States and Latin America is done by United Artists under the title, "The World in Action." These films are released through the Dominion public information office.

Canadians probably know little of the extraordinary value and significance of the National Film Board's work. Under the direction of John Grierson, internationally renowned as the pioneer in the field of documentary films, films are being produced in Ottawa which not only are helping Canadians to learn about their own country, about each other, about the war and the place of Canada in the war, but they also serve to publicize Canada to the world at large.

The unique feature about the "Canada Carries On" series is their timeliness. Every month, since the inception of the series early in 1940, the film released has dealt with an urgent topic of the war. It seems that the staff of the National Film Board possesses an uncanny intuitive faculty to select the burning question of the day and develop it in that highly intelligent and absorbing style that characterizes this series. Film critics in the United States have acclaimed this series as the outstanding contribution in the field of public information. To a young government service this is a weighty tribute, especially since the work is being done at a minimum cost and under the high pressure of a country at war. The fact is that the "Canada Carries On" and the "World in Action" series are drawing a revenue from commercial theatres which more than pays for the cost of production—a record which in itself is unique.

The film released this month, opening in the commercial theatres today, is "The Road to Tokyo." The film board has announced it as a contribution to Canadian Army Week. It records, among other things, Canada's modern army and her Pacific front line. Camera units have been working in barracks and training centres from coast to coast, and a permanent record has been made of Canadian regiments and their training in modern assault warfare.

Coming as it does on the heels of the Japanese raids on the Pacific coast, this film is unusually timely. It shows the rushing to completion of the Alaska highway for the defence of this hemisphere, the many details in the defence preparations of the northland, and, in addition, some of the Japanese plans for the invasion of Alaska. Where they get these foreign "shots" is the secret of the film board. It is to the utmost benefit to Canadians to watch for the appearance of "Canada Carries On" series. In addition to the valuable information they contain, these films give pleasure to the eye because of the clever photography, and pleasure to the ear as well from the musical, moving voice of Lorne Greene, Canada's ace commentator.

PM

(Just for the record we reprint what a reader of the New York daily has to say about "Mrs. Miniver."

Dear Editor:

Would anyone mind a minority report on Mrs. Miniver? (and the writer a lost and abject worshipper of Miss Garson.

Seeing this film, I wondered what the people in the slums of London would think of it. Is courage the property of the beautiful and the well heeled? We forever are given the graceful people. What of those who have lost everything in the war, having so little to lose?

* * *

For what did the Minivers lose? Their son's fiancee and the roof Throughout, they have remained aggressively beautiful, every hair in place, every smile in order. One wonders whether these people, if they exist, are real. One wonders if perhaps the very people who most need the war brought home are not actually being spared the real, educative horrors. I think of the heroes and heroines of Russia—who know what they live and fight and die for, who need no lesson in chaos—I think of the battle cry on their lips even as the trap is sprung and the noose tightens. Why are they dying? So the Minivers of the world can go on throwing their whimsy over an expensive new hat and an exorbitant new car? I wonder if anyone can say that the Minivers of our world have even yet either suffered or awakened?

New York **John Hastings**

Stromberg Busy At United Artists

Hunt Stromberg, who recently joined the United Artists roster of independent producers, announced today that he has acquired the film rights to "Dishonored Lady," one of Katharine Cornell's greatest stage hits.

"Dishonored Lady," which was produced on Broadway by Gilbert Miller and was directed by Guthrie McClintic, premiered at the Empire Theatre. After a long Broadway run, Miss Cornell took it on a triumphant tour across the country, in her first coast-to-coast appearances. The play was authored by Margaret Ayer Barnes and Edward Sheldon. It enjoyed a 35-week run.

Stromberg will shortly announce a top ranking feminine star who will play the controversial role created by Miss Cornell on the stage.

"Dishonored Lady" is the third property acquired by Stromberg for his forthcoming program of United Artists releases. He will also produce the current New York stage success, "Guest in the House," and the new Clarissa Fairchild Cushman novel, "Young Widow."

Joe Sawyer has just been signed by Hal Roach for a leading role in support of Jimmy Rogers and Noah Beery Jr., in "Prairie Chickens," latest Roach streamliner.

This is Sawyers's eighth role on the Roach lot during the past year and the fourteenth which the popular actor has played in the past twelve months. He recently finished a role in Roach's "Tari, Mister" in which he is costarred with William Bendix and Grace Bradley.

In "Prairie Chickens," Sawyer plays a "heavy," in contrast to the comic roles which he has played in the recent Roach pictures.

Paramount Officers Await Trial Verdict

The Paramount minority stockholders' suit before Justice Walters in New York to force an accounting of monies paid Browne and Bioff by company officials is at an end and the verdict is being awaited.

Dismissal of the entire suit was sought by Paramount lawyers who argued that no proof had been forthcoming that the company suffered any damages as a result of the payments.

Defense lawyers claimed that the evidence clearly showed that payment of extortion had prevented a disastrous strike. Justice Walters ordered briefs to be submitted on the dismissal motion by Thursday.

Snips and Snaps . . .

Sarong Girl

Everybody goes native in Universal's new Abbott and Costello picture, "Pardon My Sarong," including lovely Marie McDonald, who is one of the main reasons why Bud and Lou doff their uniforms as Chicago bus drivers and don the garment made popular by Dorothy Lamour.

Hop and Float

Lovely Marguerite Chapman as a daring paranurse in Columbia's new feature, "Parachute Nurse."

Purty, Ain't She ?

Beautiful blonde Ilona Massey lends her seductive presence to Frank Lloyd's "Invisible Agent" as an international spy under the shadow of the deadly Gestapo. The Universal picture, in which she is teamed romantically with Jon Hall, offers the noted opera singer her first straight dramatic role.

Round and Round . . .

Brian Donlevy and Barbara Stanwyck in Paramount's "The Great Man's Lady."

Four Aces

"Ten Gentlemen From West Point" Twentieth Century-Fox's rousing story of the United States military academy starring George Montgomery, Maureen O'Hara, John Sutton and Laird Cregar.